

Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1874.

"HEAR THE OTHER SIDE."

This is the title of a pamphlet, published by Mason Loomis of Montclair, in reply to a Report of Julius H. Pratt of the same place, concerning the use of the funds by him, which were subscribed for the building of the new iron depot at that place.

In refutation of this Report of Mr. Pratt's, Mr. Loomis shows conclusively by figures, giving dates and particulars with great minuteness, that such Report was erroneous, and that there had been a misapplication of the money. It should be understood that all of the figures, dates &c., in this pamphlet were taken from the books of the Montclair Railway Company, of which Mr. Pratt had the practical charge, and that Mr. Loomis was formerly one of Engineers of said company, and as such is intimately acquainted with the matters of which he treats. He is also one of the Receivers of the company; and it should be further noted that he, in his pamphlet makes the offer to submit the books of the company, in his charge, for examination, by any one interested, in order to either verify or disprove his statements. This seems to be fair, and in the absence of any adverse statements we are obliged to give full credit to his. In this matter Mr. Loomis uses Mr. Pratt as his authority. The only question is, has he correctly copied the books? If so, then that is the end of the whole matter, so far as the public interest is concerned.

But that there may be no doubt upon this point, it is corroborated by the statement of account by Charles W. Crane Esq., accountant, who is the expert clerk of the Receiver in Bankruptcy of this district.

Until these facts are denied in detail and proven to be wrong, by evidence from the books from which they are claimed to have been taken,—this being the only rightful source from which correct information may be obtained,—all fair minded men must be convinced of their strict accuracy, and treat them as such.

We are constrained to make the foregoing explanation of the nature of Mr. Loomis' pamphlet, because an article has appeared in the "Saturday Gazette" which is calculated to unjustly prejudice people against this pointed statement of Mr. Loomis, as well as against that gentleman himself. It seems to be the object of the editor of the "Gazette" not to attack directly the plain facts shown by Mr. Loomis, but rather to try and place that gentleman in a false position by wilfully assuming him to be and unwholly unworthy of respect or confidence!

Now we, too, "have read the pamphlet attentively," but fail to find a syllable in it to warrant the assumptions made by our contemporary. Respecting the motives of Mr. Loomis, and particularly the spirit in which his pamphlet is written, the reasons are fully given—namely, to repel an attack upon him by Mr. Pratt, which was made, not in the heat of debate, but read from manuscript, calmly and deliberately, in a public meeting. If, under such circumstances, Mr. L. was expected to have done differently from that which he did, then we are sadly at fault in our estimate of the feelings and passions common to us all. No man with a spark of manliness in his bosom would have done otherwise than defend himself from such an assault.

We are told in the "Gazette" that Mr. Loomis' "vindictiveness detracts from the force of his statements." That "he seems to labor more to relieve himself of some fervid heart-burnings which he cannot extinguish than to present the simple truth for his readers to contemplate," etc. etc. There is also sandwiched in an earnest protestation of purity and non-partisanship on the part of the editor, who styles himself as a "dutiful journalist in the interest of truth, purity and peace," together with a good word here and there, as occasion offers, for Mr. Pratt. The editorial motive seems to be clearly to paint Mr. Loomis as black as can be, and Mr. Pratt, if not actually spotless, at least as much-abused man, the editor, meanwhile, coming in for the lion's share of scutinity.

But seriously, since the way has been opened for the discussion of a moral question, we must as a public journalist take exception to the Gazette's assertion that the pamphlet under consideration is calculated to do harm to the minds of our children, in consequence of its exposures and the comments made thereon. The question naturally arises in this connection, is the exposure and the most emphatic condemnation of a wrong hurtful to the minds of us or our children? If so, then every paper published in the land, including the Gazette, should be kept from our households and pipes in our streets.

The fact is, we have done, and must reasonably pay the piper. We have called in the doctor, and cannot consistently refuse to take his medicine.

Such is the situation between Bloomfield and the Gas Company to-day. It sees us just under the circumstances, to make a direct issue between gas and oil. But if kerosene can be used as a "scare" to the people, then the Gas Company will decline to enter. We can hardly believe it is the deliberate intention of the Town Committee to resort to oil, especially when we remember that it is less than three months since some of the gas mains were laid and the company given to understand that gas would be burned in the streets. We are certainly under some obligations to a company which have authorized to lay eleven miles of pipes in our streets.

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This duty is the great mission of the press.

If wrong is exposed, condemned and punished, the effect upon the minds of our children and young men is good. And he who is instrumental in doing this is to be commended and sustained. But if wrong, when exposed, is excused, and the wrong doer made to appear to have acted horribly and worthily by persons of respectability, then the harm done by such exposure to the minds of our children will be incalculable. In such case however, the responsibility is not to be laid at the door of him who makes the exposure, but at the doors of those who strike at the very life of public morality by condoning the wrong.

Taxes for 1874.

The Board of Assessors for Essex county met on Monday in Newark, to adjust valuations and fix the rate of state and county taxes in each district. \$100,000 was added to the valuation of Montclair, the Assessor of the township not being present, and \$25,000 added to Bloomfield, under objection from our Assessor. A motion to increase valuations in Orange was lost. A motion, made by Assessor Oakes, that in future returns the real and personal property by kept separate, was adopted. The County rate was fixed at 71.67 per cent.

In Bloomfield township the indications are that taxes will be a little lower than last year. Mr. Oakes, our Assessor, returns the real estate valuation at \$2,749,250; against 2,669,575 last year—increase \$139,675. He returns the personal property at \$507,781, against \$625,958 last year—decrease \$118,177.

The total township valuation, \$3,257,031, is decreased by the liabilities, which are \$140,570, to \$3,116,461. The County Assessors add \$25,000 to this, making the actual amount taxable \$3,141,000.

These returns show for own township an increase of real estate over last year of upwards of 18 per cent.; and a decrease of personal property of about 18 1/2 per cent.

It is impossible to state exactly what the township rate will be, but it may be approximately estimated as follows:

County & State Tax	53
Gas tax	22
School tax	47
Gas tax (estimated)	30
Gas tax (estimated)	26
	\$17,222

The township assessment as per appraisals, etc., is as follows:

Real estate	\$5,000
Personal property	2,900
Contingencies	4,000
Reservoir and Pump Grounds	1,000
Total	\$11,900
	5,222

It will be seen that if the \$4,000 voted for grading, (and not required, as Mr. Telford's pamphlet has been petitioned for,) should not be assessed, the rate will be reduced 13 per cent., leaving it \$1.93. There has been some talk of fighting the Road Board assessment of \$5,222, for Bloomfield Avenue, which is manifestly a fraud on the township. A proper combination on the part of the several townships which are saddled with that unjust burden, would probably have resulted in putting it where it belongs—on the county at large.

The estimate for gas is \$8,000 which is really too much—about twice as much as the township ought to spend for this purpose.

Bloomfield Town Committee.

A meeting of the Township Committee was held on Friday afternoon, all the members being present.

The following bills, presented by the Overseer of the Poor, were ordered to be paid:

Mulison Bros., \$23.23.

J. W. Baldwin Bros., \$147.38.

Collector Mr. Campbell presented his bond, which was accepted and ordered filed.

A bill of \$9, for insurance upon the Poor House building was charged to the contingent account.

On motion it was resolved that the clerk notify the town census to resign unless he can give the business of the Town Committee requisite attention.

It was resolved to pay the Bloomfield Gas and Water Co. \$1,000 on account.

It was decided to advertise for proposals to light the streets of the township with gas or other lighting materials.

Adjourned.

Gas or Oil?

This seems to be the question which is uppermost in our town just at present. An advertisement for proposals by the Town Committee has appeared, inviting bids for lighting the streets in apparent antagonism to the present method.

It will doubtless be a one-sided competition, that between gas and kerosene—and perhaps one in which the Gas Company will decline to enter.

We can hardly believe it is the deliberate intention of the Town Committee to resort to oil, especially when we remember that it is less than three months since some of the gas mains were laid and the company given to understand that gas would be burned in the streets. We are certainly under some obligations to a company which have authorized to lay eleven miles of pipes in our streets.

The sudden rise of the waters in Becher's Run is well illustrated by some incidents related by a German family, who reside in a stone dwelling opposite Havelock's glue works. The husband told his wife to go to the cellar to obtain some kindlings or the cooking stove, as he desired to go work early Monday morning. The wife placed the wood in the stove, but by the time she had completed her work the water had reached the floor. She informed her husband of the fact and suggested that they hasten to vacate the house, as the flood threatened to destroy it. The husband, who had夬, jumped out of bed into water knee-deep, and with his wife proceeded to get children out of an upper-story window in the high ground in the rear. After he had accomplished this, the husband returned to the bedroom to get some clothing of a wardrobe, but in the mean time water reached such a height as to upset him and he found it impossible to get the clothes he wanted, being compelled to vacate apartment hastily.

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Montclair Licenses.

Mr. Charles Leist, proprietor of the "Washington Hotel," on the Old Road has made application to the Township Committee to protect the regular licensed house in Montclair. His complaint was that three had paid their license of seventy-five dollars apiece which was for the benefit of the town, and that it was the duty of the officers of the town to close the unlicensed places of make them pay for selling. Some four or five new places had been started lately and are ruining the unlicensed though legitimate business of the regular hotels.

The Beecher Inquiry.

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," is a proverb which comes in at the present time in reference to Mr. Beecher and the atrocious charges brought against him by Mr. Tilton. The hope that has been so fondly indulged that he would establish his innocence and dispel the poisonous misasias that still lurks in the atmosphere—in it to be realized? The parfice of a truthful public is being sorely taxed. The daily newspapers, while the lingering uncertainty continues, make the gutters to add new fuel to the flames of misery and discord. Confidence in Mr. Beecher is not as strong today as it was a week ago. Respect for the Committee which has undertaken the task of investigating the sad affair is rapidly giving way to a feeling of weariness, impatience and disgust.

"However honorable," says a New York evening paper, "the gentlemen composing the committee, it is nevertheless an *ex parte* affair without authority to compel the attendance of witnesses, and with no great moral weight because of its one-sided and informal character." It is not a proper tribunal for the trial of a case of such seriousness and magnitude. Its methods are manifestly and necessarily unfair to Mr. Tilton, who is not represented in it, and does not appear before it by counsel, while his opponent is represented by two skillful attorneys. The witnesses do not testify under oath, and even if they did and should swear falsely they would not be guilty of perjury in the eye of the law because the committee has no legal status nor authority whatever. And the more they inquire and publish the more they complicate a matter that is sufficiently muddled and muddled already."

Editor of the Record:

The trustees at the school meeting held on the 13th inst. gave notice that a new election for trustees would take place in August. They did so because it was understood that the State Superintendent had sent the supplement to the school law passed in March.

It was thought best to communicate directly with Mr. Apgar, State Superintendent, and the following note was

inserted in the paper:

"DEAR SIR.—DEAR SIR:

Your special act is operative in prescribing the mode

and time of electing trustees for your district; that provision of your act is not repeated by the general law."

Yours ELLIS A. APGAR, State Superint.

Bloomfield, July 28, 1874. C. P.

Communicated.

It was a pleasure to be present at the reception given to the Rev. H. W. Ballantine (the chosen pastor of the Presbyterian church,) ad his lady, at the residence of Mr. Isaac C. Ward, on Tuesday evening of this week. The guests, some 300 in number, attended their keen enjoyment of the occasion by their enthusiastic greetings and affectionate regard manifested to the new pastor, as well as by the kindly glow and mutual interchange of fraternal feeling and sentiment. The pleasing attention of most hospitable whose hospitality was so much enjoyed, the floral decorations, the many happy faces and animated expressions, all combined to make it a very enjoyable evening those present. May it prove a prophecy and promise of much good in store for this favored church and their gifted minister.

WESTMINSTER.

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LOCAL BREVIETIES.